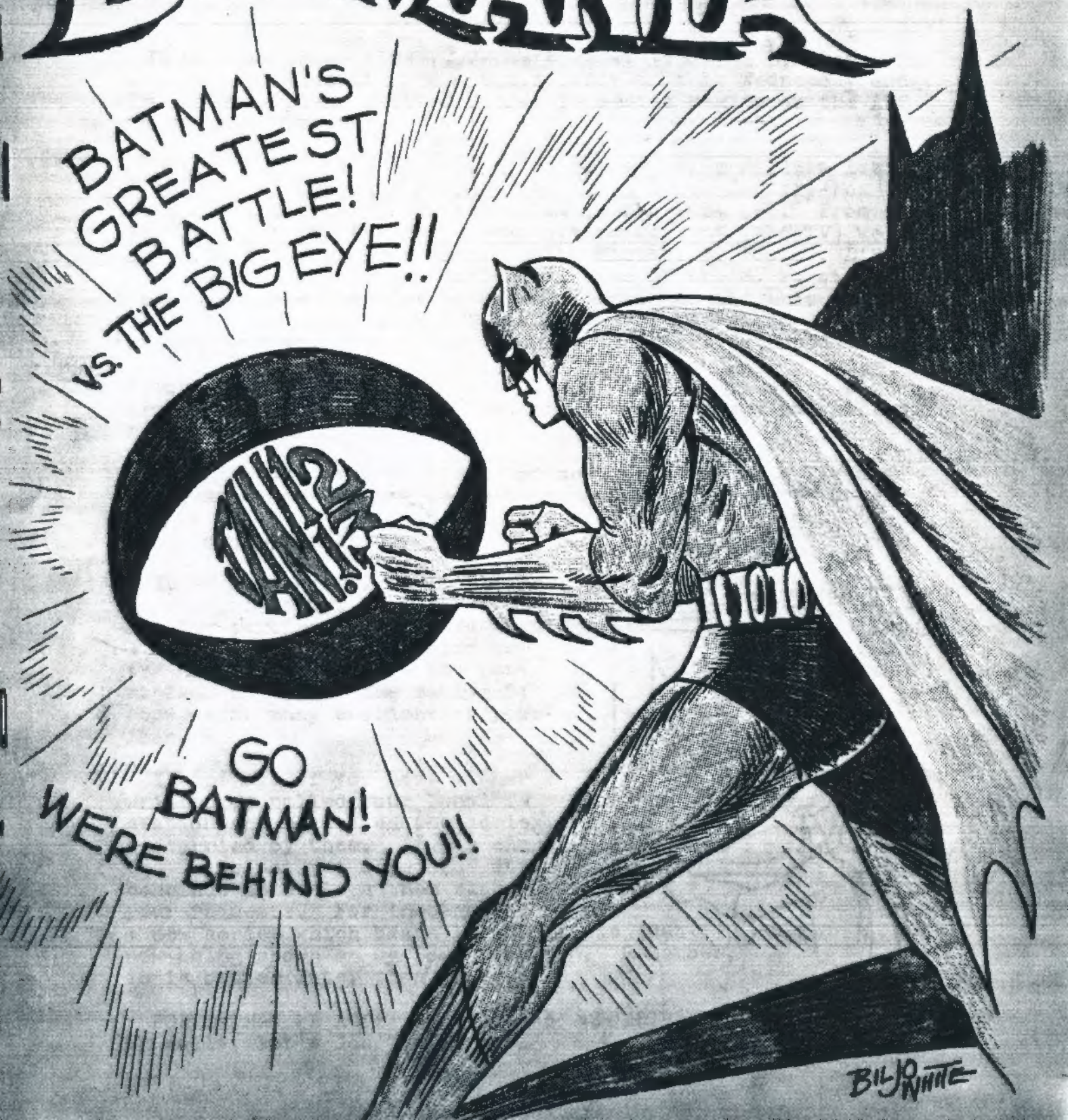
• The FANZINE for BATMAN FANS •

BATMANIA

9th BIG ISSUE
Feb. 1966



No. 9
February
1966

BATMANIA

Our objective--
to join together
those who enjoy
reading, collecting
and watching
the adventures of
Batman & Robin.

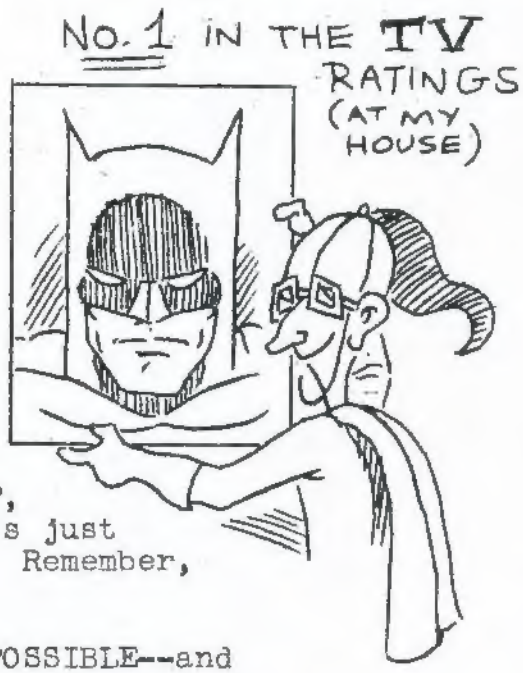
Remember these times...January 12 at 7:30 - 8 p.m. and January 13, also at 7:30 - 8 p.m...for on this Wednesday and Thursday the long awaited Batman TV series begins on the ABC Television Network.

Batmania has been in continuous contact with William Dozier, President of Greenway Productions, Inc. (20th Century-Fox Studios) and their TV Publicity man, Robert E. Lee. From New York and the American Broadcasting Company (ABC-TV) we are also in continuous contact with Michael J. Foster, Director of Publicity and Phil Kriegler, also of the N. Y. staff. These gentlemen have graciously consented to aid this publication in bringing to all Batmanians everywhere the very latest Batman TV news. Our sincere thanks is hereby extended to them.

Some of their comments can be found in the following pages, along with much background material that I'm sure you'll find most interesting.

In this issue you'll also find news from Columbia Pictures Corporation concerning the old Batman serial in 8mm. Our thanks for this goes out to Eli Arenberg, Manager, 8mm Division at Columbia.

It is most gratifying to receive such prompt response from all the parties named above when I requested their attention to the nationwide goal of the Batmanians to "spot" the Batman TV show on as many stations as possible.



I hope all of you have either written or called your local TV station and requested the series be carried by them. If, by chance, they have not yet scheduled it, do continue to besiege them with your requests. For instance, F TROOP, a new series which began last Fall, is just now being shown on my local station. Remember, it is better late, than never.

FOR BATMAN WE ACCEPT NOTHING AS IMPOSSIBLE--and by golly, let's don't stop now!

BILJO WHITE Editor

Beginning =
BATMAN-TV
NEWS

FROM CALIFORNIA

I was delighted to have your letter of November sixteenth with the BATMANIA enclosures. Lorenzo Semple, Jr. and I are of course familiar with your periodical, having seen several of the earlier issues as part of our initial research.

We are delighted to know you are so enthusicastic about the forthcoming television series and are recruiting Batmanians to generate interest in the initial shows of Jan. 12th & 13th.

We fervently hope we shall not let you down. We are proud to be fellow BATMANIANS or BATMANIACS, whichever seems more applicable.

Cordially, William Dozier

I am delighted to hear about your fine magazine and organization about the Batman.

I am handling publicity on the show and will be glad to send you any info or photos that you think might be helpful.

Call on us at anytime.

Robert Lee

AND FROM NEW YORK

Thank you for sending me the copies of your fanzine BATMANIA, which arrived today.

I am enclosing a feature on Adam West who will play the lead role in THE BATMAN, which premeires Wednesday, January 12 at 7:30 - 8 p.m. on the ABC Television Network, as a twice-a-week program. THE BATMAN also will be broadcast Thursdays, also at 7:30 - 8 p.m.

Phil Kriegler of our New York staff, who handles the BATMAN show, will mail you all future BATMAN releases to be certain your readers know everything upcoming on this exciting new ABC Television Network series.

If you have any suggestions for special stories you would like, by all means let Mr. Kriegler know your ideas. We value your help.

Sincerely, Michael Foster

MORE BATMAN ON TELEVISION TO FOLLOW----------

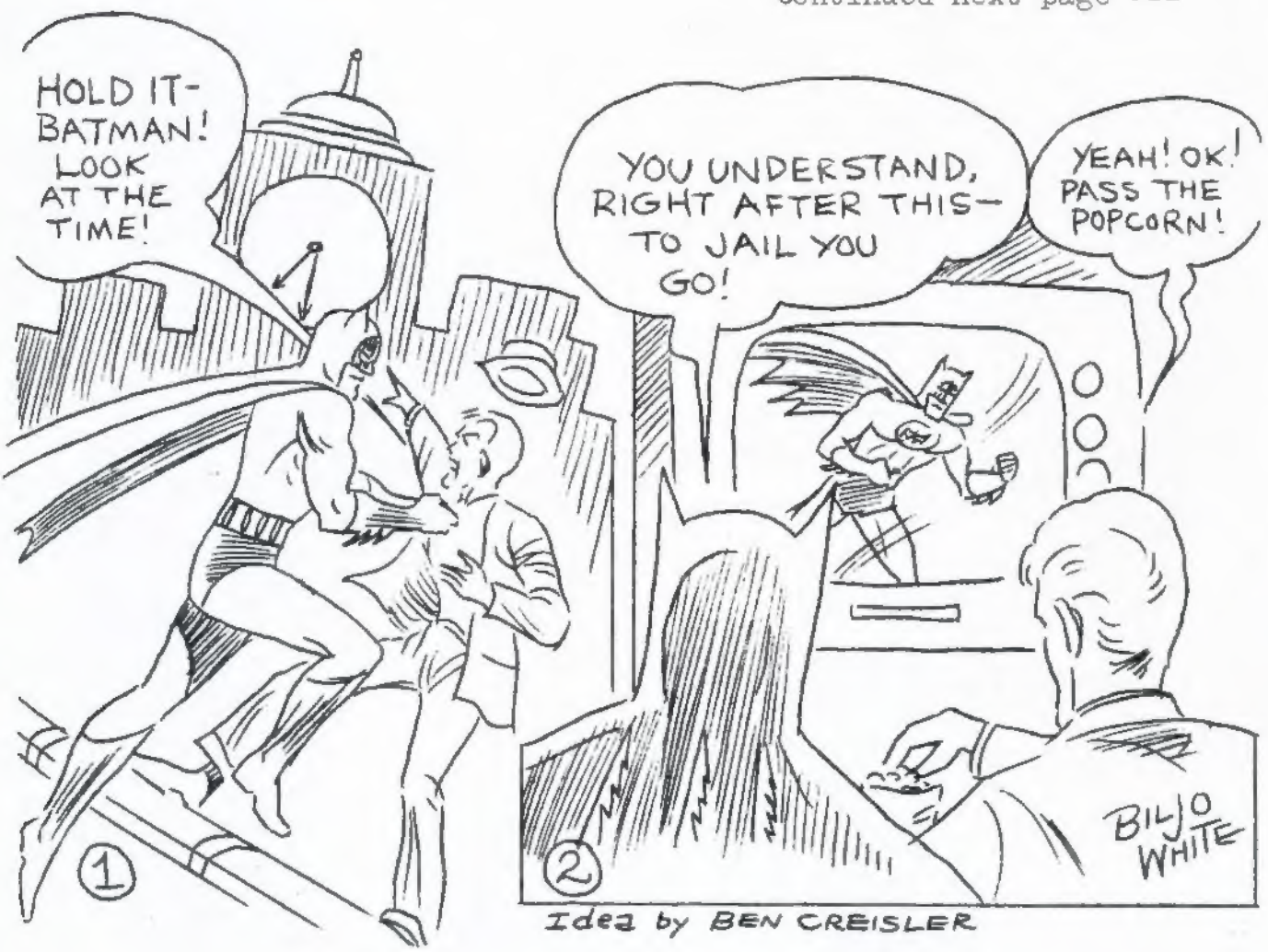
The Batman series was sold before William Dozier and 20th Century-Fox had even made their pilot--on the basis of tests of Adam West and Burt Ward in costume as Batman and his young aide, Robin; the script, style, and, obviously, Dozier's background.

"I WOULD RATHER BE THE INITIATOR OF A TREND, than an imitator, if I have any choice, but I'll do both."...so says Dozier. "There have been great efforts by some of my competitors to buy up rights to comic books in recent weeks. If comic book series can be as good as "Batman," let's have more of them."

Concerning the Batman show, Dozier believes "We have a chance here not only to be good but fresh. Emphasis is on action and suspense for the youngsters, and humor for the adults. Gadgets are secondary, and they are not serious. This is the form of the exaggerated cliche with a bizarre hero being pitted against even more bizarre heavies. Comic books are not done to amuse adults who don't read them, they are done to enthrall youngsters from 8-14."

"If that's the only audience we will have, it's much too expensive a show. We will keep and enthrall those readers, and lay on top of it a humor quotient that will amuse adults. Everything, every situation is played as though we are going to drop the bomb on Hiroshima. We play it on two different levels, one for youngsters, one for adults."

Continued next page ---



Idea by BEN CREISLER

Dozier illustrates his point thus: "When Batman goes into a restaurant in his bizarre costume, the maitre d' wants to seat him at a table, but Batman says no, he'll sit at the bar, 'I don't want to be conspicuous.' This is a real funny line. The kids will see that their hero is real humble, not a showoff. But here he is in leotard, cape, mask, with Batman's insignia on his chest, saying, 'I don't want to be conspicuous.' He's about as retiring as an atomic bomb."

ABC bought 34 half-hours, but Dozier comments, "I like to think we will be on longer. I have no misgivings about a midseason start on this kind of show. It's so innovational, so fresh, so spectacular I'd rather go on in midseason if I had a choice, than at the start when 29 others go on."

Neil Hamilton is a regular as the police commissioner, and Alan Napier as the butler, "Alfred." Lorenzo Semple Jr. penned the pilot, will write many more scripts and is also supervision script consultant.

In TV's earliest days, there were a number of series based on cartoon strips, such as "Superman," "Steve Canyon" and "Dick Tracy," among others. None ever really made any impact, but in later years a resurgence saw "Dennis The Menace" and "Hazel" do much better. Now ABC-TV has bought "Batman" based on the comic books of the same name...destined, we hope, to be the greatest of the all.

THE DIAMONDBACK---University of Maryland student paper ran the following Editorial in a recent edition:

SHINDUG

It is with the greatest regret that The Diamondback is forced to state that The American Broadcasting Company has sunk to the lowest depths possible in its recent decision to end the respected program, Shindig, and replace it with a sanguinary new show entitled "Batman." Should a handful of ABC executives be allowed to deprive us of a valuable bit of Americana? Who dictates public taste to whom? Are they businessmen or commissars?

Evidence seems to indicate that this is a plot to destroy a valuable part of American culture. Perhaps the House Un-American Activities Committee should transfer its investigation from The KKK to ABC. If such a meaningful sociological program must be replaced because of dwindling ratings, then surely television is a "vast wasteland."

What's to become of the Blossoms, Shindogs and the go-go girls, not to mention all those persons whom these groups kept off the street? Are they to become victims of President Johnson's war on poverty? Batman will never be able to fight crime nearly so effectively as Shindig. The Diamondback fears that ABC doesn't realize the repercussions their decision will have. We strongly urge the American people -- despite their righteous anger -- to act with restraint and to avoid any violence which would have the effect of blackening our international image.

We Batmanians couldn't take that laying down, so listen to what our Chief-BMian and Associate Editor, Tom Fagan wrote them:

Managing Editor
THE DIAMONDBACK

18 November 1965

AN OPEN LETTER TO DIAMONDBACK READERS:

We Batmanians likewise share the concern of the Diamondback's editorial powerw-that-be concerning the future of marked musical personalities as the Blossoms, Shindogs and the Go-Go Girls. (See Diamondback Editorial--SHINDUG--Nov. 8, 1965.)

However, our fears have been somewhat tempered by the fact these fine performers do not immediately face the prospect of the unending line streaming into the Unemployment Compensation Commission offices.

Barring some Un-American executive decision, Batmanians and Diamondbackers alike will be able to still see their favorites on the Lloyd Thaxton Show and Dick Clark's American Bandstand.

If not then we'd better join forces and stage a Whiskey Rebellion or Boston Tea Party to bring the country to its senses.

What does concern the Batmanians, though, is the Diamondback labeling of our long awaited Batman television show as "sanguinary."

That's hardly cricket--or chiroptera for that matter.

The Diamondback has always enjoyed a reputation for fairness. To slap a label sight unseen on a television show smacks of Wertham tactics.

And YOU know what he DID!

Sincerely, Tom Fagan, C-BM

The Diamondback had the courtesy to print the above letter in full--- plus the Batmanian stationary letterhead, and all.

...and now back to more news on the Batman show itself...

Burt Ward, a slender, natural athlete, was discovered living within the shadow of the Greenway Productions Studios after executive producer, William Dozier, conducted a nation-wide search for an actor wtih the skill to portray "Robin."

Burt won his athletic letters in wrestling, track, tennis and the Oriental sport of "karate." Anyone doubt he'll make a great Robin?

BATMAN, a 25+year favorite in comic books and currently a reigning idol in the world of Pop Art and High Camp, now comes bounding onto the television screen in the person of...

ADAM WEST

Adam West has come a long and winding way from his birth in a line-shack on the Washington-Oregon border to this sophisticated comedy-adventure series, The Batman, with stops along the way as a featured regular in another TV series ("The Detectives"), movies as divergent as "Robinson Crusoe on Mars" and "The Young Philadelphians"--and even a spell as a milkman.

After graduating from Lakeside Prep School in Seattle, Adam's wanderlust--which eventually took him all over the world--lead him through four different colleges from the University of California at Santa Barbara to the University of Washington to the College of Puget Sound (in Tacoma) to Whitman College in Walla Walla, where he stayed long enough to take away a BA degree.

Back on the move again, he began graduate work at Stanford in Radio-TV and Journalism, managing the Stanford radio station. That experience brought him a job as writer-director for a 7-station Radio-TV network in Sacramento.

The US Army put a halt to his travels at that point, settling him down at Camp San Luis Chispo, where he started the first entertainment TV station on an Army post. (Even in the service he couldn't stay completely still---he went on to Ft. Monmouth, N. J. to set up a similar TV station there.) After the Army he decided it was time to make a walking tour of Europe, and gathered the necessary funds by emceeing TV's Tommy Tucker Show, singing in night-clubs---and delivering milk.

After Europe the Pacific seemed the next logical stop, and he was off to Hawaii, where he spent four years as a director-performer on television, became an Account Executive for an advertising agency--and flew as a bush-pilot when time allowed.

Adam's first venture into Hollywood brought an almost immediate contract with Warner Bros., and a solid year of television acting on shows like "77 Sunset Strip" and "Maverick." A role in "The Young Philadelphians" followed, after which he left the studio to free-lance, landing the romantic lead as Sgt. Steve Nelson in "The Detectives" on ABC-TV. Two presently unreleased movies feature the contrasting elements of Adam West, playing broad comedy in "The Outlaws Is Coming" and

broader adventure in "Valley of the White Wolves."

The peripatetic Mr. West (6'2", 186 lbs., brown hair, green eyes), with two half-hour adventures of Batman to turn out each week, is now comfortably settled into a mediterranean-style villa at Malibu Beach, where he keeps in shape for his feats of daring by skin-diving, working-out on the beach, skiing in the mountains, and racing his motorcycle around his bachelor home. Still on the go.

BATMAN RESCUES THE BATMOBILE

Adam West, filming ABC-TV's new live-action color series "Batman," which premieres Jan. 12, figures he's already earned himself a raise: He saved the company some $30,000 last week.

Something went haywire in the ignition of the Batmobile (proving that even the Batmobile is human) and when West (as Batman) came screaming to a halt in the car, turned off the key and leaped out, the Batmobile kept going. He felt the movement of the car going on by him, turned and realized it was headed toward a group of other ordinary automobiles being used in the scene.

"I had a second's indecision before jumping back in," said West. "I'm not too crazy about diving into runaway cars, but I did it, and got it stopped in time."

His reason, he explained, was a simple one, "It's too near premiere date, and that machine is one-of-a-kind. If it smashed up, production would be slowed for weeks, and I'd hate to be forced into reruns after the first month on the air."

FAMILIAR FACE IN GOTHAM

Gotham City, site of the adventures in ABC-TV's new live-action color "Batman" series, begins to look even more like Gotham (New York) in the third episode when Frankie Darro makes a guest appearance. It's been 30 years since Darro's dead end kid days, but in this one he plays a newsboy.

Time out for a word from COLUMBIA PICTURES CORP.

Thank you for your letter of November 24 and your interest in our forthcoming BATMAN Series in 8mm. We are at this time preparing brochures with detailed information regarding these serials.

I can, however, at this time tell you that we are releasing six chapters from the original BATMAN serials. They will be condensed versions -- that is, the running time will be about ten minutes on each chapter and will be on 200' 8mm reels. They will be silent editions in black and white, and we are bridging certain chapters in order that chapter six will actually be the 15th chapter of the original version. It is our intention to release one a month starting with chapter one in Jan. '66. Each chapter has a list price of $5.95 and may be obtained thru your local dealers or by writing directly to Columbia Pictures.

Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely, Eli Arenberg

THE PLAYBOY THEATRE'S "AN EVENING WITH BATMAN," a complete showing of all 15-episodes on Oct. 9th of the 1943 Batman and Robin serial, turned in what appears to be an all-time confectionary record for one day sales at the theatre. In the first three hours of the four hour and 45 minuete serial, the popcorn machine racked up $200, with candy bars, peanuts, mints and soda hot on its trail.

Which strikes me as a sort of omen of things to come...

The serial began at midnight and by 12:15 all 634 seats were sold. Admission was $1.25 with in and out privileges guaranteed by an ink stamp of a bat, which was placed on the back of each persons hand. One man, at first rumored to be Hugh Hefner, appeared wearing a Batman costume, but he later turned out to be the manager of a neighboring theatre who got caught up in the drama of the affair. The gross for the showing was $850 with over 400 cheering persons staying until the end. The entire thing is perhaps best described by one man who left at the conclusion of the serial, flushed with excitement, hoarse from shouting, who mumbled, "Boy, that was longer than 'Gone With The Wind."

Batmanian George Wirth had these comments following the showing of the serial in New Orleans:

"If you've never had the opportunity to see it, I recommend it. You might not be able to hear what's going on as most people go to see it because it's camp (so ridiculous, it's great). I never had more fun in all my life, laughing at all the cliche's ("Dr. Daka, I have a strange feeling we're being watched!....Yow!--It's the Batman!!"). Also, the profound and intrinsic detective work displayed by the Nocturnal One: Tons of rock have just missed crushing Batman in this cave, Robin helps him to his feet; covered with dust, the Cowled Crimebuster says, "Humm ...there's been a cave-in!"

"BATMAN was no serial...it was a great, big comic-book that took you 5 hours to read. I don't see why the crooks were so terrified by this flop-eared Batman (I laughed myself to death). I guess I'm just ignorant."

"Let's hope the telewision version is not treated "a la Plastic Man." ---George Wirth

TIME Magazine reported in its November 26, 1965 edition:

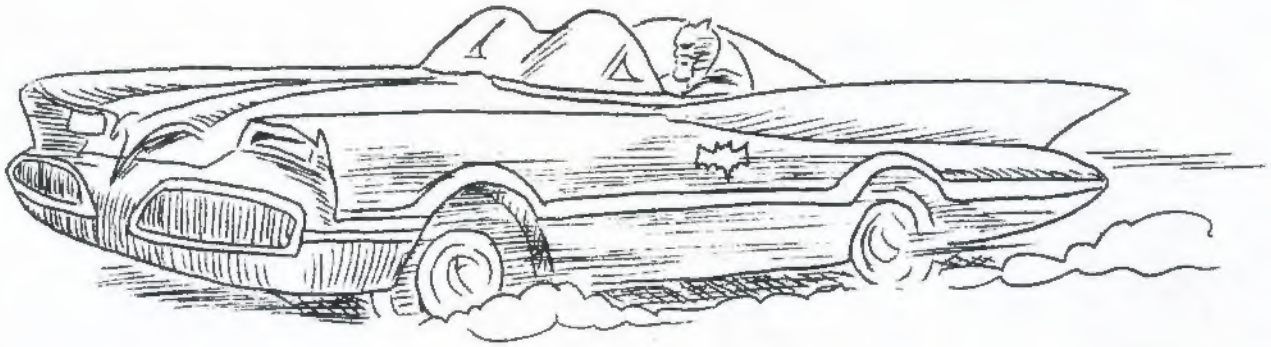
Time was when no Saturday-afternoon kiddie movie was complete without a Batman-and-Robin episode. Children roared their approval as the dynamic duo burst through windows, grappled with thugs and wrestled with wild animals in their lengthy pursuit of the evil Japanese Dr. Daka. Batman fell into cinematic and literary obscurity during the comic-book cleanup of the '50s. But recently Batman and Robin have been rehabilitated into high-camp folk heroes.

Some oldsters come because "I saw one episode when I was eleven and wanted to know how it came out"; the majority are meeting the movie Batman for the first time. In either case, the reaction varies in pitch from light snickers to Neanderthal roars. Audiences giggle at Veteran Overactor J. Carroll Naish's portrait of Dr. Daka, boo the opening episode's racist slurs: "A wise government rounded up the shifty-eyed Japs." But by the time Batman lies trapped in a pit with knife blades converging on him, the audience stops laughing, starts chanting: "Kill, Kill! Kill!..."

Richest sources of comedy are the stars, Batman (Lewis Wilson) and Robin (Douglas Croft). As Socialite Bruce Wayne and his ward, Dick Grayson, the two actors draw sneers every time they appear in their

'40s street clothes (huge, wide-brimmed fedoras, oversized suits with cantilevered shoulders); when they change to their fighting costumes (masks, jersey pajamas, capes, Jockey shorts and boots), Wilson and Croft prompt more laughter than any other pair since Laurel and Hardy.

Their puffy, unathletic leaps are a satire of comic-book prowess, and the plots are at the same level. Why should Batman's badly produced, amateurishly acted one-reelers do so well 22 years after they were released? Offered one Columbia executive: "Comic-book heroes are the only heroes we have nowadays." Said one Batfan: "It's pop art." Says another: "Where else can you get entertained for four hours for a buck and a quarter?"



HERE IS THE "TV" BATMOBILE

In case you haven't heard, the 20th Century-Fox studio, where the Batman series is being filmed, is absolutely closed to outsiders. Details of some of Batman's gimmicks--er, appurtenances--are given, but few photographs have been released. (As this is being typed, in advance of final assemble of BM#9, we hope that promised photos from ABC and Greenway Productions will reach us in time for publication (special offset pages). As for some of the "gimmicks" we have managed to give you an idea of what the "TV" Batmobile will look like (above). Can you imagine an animated POW! appearing on the screen when Batman strikes an evil-doer? Well, look for it, 'cause its supposed to be there.

Since Batman carries no gun, there will be a Batarang, a specially designed boomerang which, like the other gimmicks, originated in the fertile mind of Batman's erratic and unusual artist Bob Kane.

Kane's feelings about Batman are a little removed from those of ABC. He started drawing the figure when he was 14, and drew its inspiration from the famous Leonardo de Vinci sketches of the "Ornithopter," a fantastic machine which, when strapped to a man, gave him wings and enabled him to fly. The character of the Joker, one of the regular villains, is based on a story by Victor Hugo. One gathers that Kane takes Batman rather more seriously than ABC.

"Batman is successful," says Kane, "because he is the fantasy dream of most people. He has ingenuity of mind and physical prowess as well. James Bond is an off-shoot; a Batman without a cape. Batman's frightening bat-costume reflects the fears of all of us, but Batman is a power for good which makes it all right.

"The gadgets he uses are a marvelous satirical spoof of our so-called mechanized material society. Batman is my own fantasy wish, too."

Escapism or pop art satire, Batman is certainly something new in this miserable television season. It may be a wild success, or it may be only ABC's fantasy wish. As for ourselves: POW! We can hardly wait.

Remember---Batman begins on ABC-TV, Jan. 12th. Be Watching!!!

STUDY IN SCHIZOPHRENIA

by

Tom Fagan

BAT-FICTON #1

At first it was a game.

Cars would whizz by. Late-model, powerful black vehicles. But never the one he was watching for. Yet he knew one day it would come.

The knowledge made him secure. At night he would lay in bed, covers tucked beneath his chin. He could sense the body changes, the lengthing of muscle and sinew, the strange feelings racing through his being.

And as he lay there excited with these new energies within him, he listened always for the car. He would know the sound the moment it came on the night wind.

A powerful snarl of horsepower! Headlights stabbing into darkness. Racing tires shrilling in triumph over concrete pathways. That was the way it would be. He knew it without being told or even thinking about it for that matter.

More and more he listened for the car. Daytimes he sat in school, unmindful of the constant classroom clamor about him. Sat drawing the car and---its driver.

The cape had to be just so. So did the cowl. Pencil sketched in delicate shadings. He no longer bothered to answer the teacher when she spoke. He simply sat staring off into a space---a space out of which, one day the car would come in black, swift glory.

Day after day the taunts; the whispers---the jeering.

He stood in the middle of the school playground staring out over the tops of grinning faces that encircled him. Hearing and not hearing---just listening and looking for the car.

"Batman," "Batman," "Batman," mouthed the ever-mounting chorus. It was true, he thought, he wasn't anyone else at all. Whey he hadn't thought of it before, he didn't know. But thinking about it made his head spin in painful spasm.

His tormentors turned to leave. Without conscious direction, he bent down and picked up the heavy stone lying at his feet there. Holding it aloft in both hands, he brought it down with powerful sureness on the neck of the boy before him.

Blood spread out over a crumpled figure. Screams filled the playyard as he walked past the others to go into the classroom again to stare out the window and watch the roadway silently.

A grey-haired woman with golden skin asking him to draw a human figure. He drew the cowled man, with black gauntlets and boots.

"Do you like comic books? she asked in a far-away voice. "I like true stories," he said, his voice too sounding distant to him. "I like stories about myself as I am here," he added looking down at his drawing.

Questions and more questions, now by an owlish-looking man. Sometimes he would answer; sometimes not. Days when a strange-looking man and woman would come to talk with him.

He wondered why the woman cried so often in leaving. "That's your mother and father," the elderly lady in the white uniform said. "I have no parents," he replied, stating in softer tones, "Mom and Dad were killed by a hold-up man."

Anger tinged his voice as he said purposefully, "I was there. He shot them! Someday, I'll find that man; when I do, I'll---"

Days drifting into nights; twilights into dawns. And always the questions. He tried concentrating on other things.

At first he hardly noticed it. It appeared to be just a black smudge on the wall. He wondered why no one else seemed not to notice it---why it wasn't washed away. They kept his room so clean here.

Daily the smudge grew larger and larger till it encompassed the whole wall. Nightly a faint luminescence played about it. Yet no one else commented on this strangeness.

And while people moved him about, still asking questions, giving him medications and trying to bore into his secret thoughts, he recognized the blackness of the wall for what it was.

The mouth of the hidden cavern beckoned to him. From within the Stygian depths came the sound. The mechanized growl of a vaunted engine in high gear---tempered at times by the soft-oiled purring of idling.

All he had to do was walk into the cave. Black and mid-night blue, the uniform would be waiting in its hidden niche. Trophies of past death-defying cases lining stalagmited chambers---all there just for him.

Sanctuary with the fabled, streamlined car awaiting his touch. Ready to be driven deeper and deeper down into even more hidden and secret, honey-combed passages. With a smile he walked toward the cave. The driving beats, the music of the motor played upon his senses, sweeping over him in exciting currents of sensation.

He would never answer another question again, he promised himself standing before the entrance. He took the first step inside.

When they made night check, they found him standing before the wall, staring straight ahead of him at the immaculate spanse of whiteness.

He was still smiling.

- - -

Send all Comic Oddities and
Bat-Facts to P. O. Box 115, Columbia, Mo.
Full credit given to all contributions.

COMIC ODDITIES

IS IT A BIRD? IS IT A TRAIN?....NO....IT'S... SUPER SARGE!
...who is none other than Sergeant Snorkle of "Beetle Bailey" fame. "Super Sarge" appeared in the Sunday strip for Nov. 28, 1965. Sent in by Tollis Pompeo.

THE BATMAN OF 1919! Are you familiar with a book called The Bad Guys, by William K. Everson? It's one of those large-sized"pictorial history of the movies" books, and it occupies itself with the classic film villains. Citadel published it last year.

On page 157, in a chapter devoted to hooded villains, the following astonishing caption appears beside the upper photograph: "A 1919 Batman intervenes as Ben Wilson throttles another villain in The Branded Four." And the photograph to the right shows a hooded and robed figure, guns in hand, emerging from a darkened room while in the foreground a husky, square-jawed fellow strangles a slickly mustached chap and a heroine-type shrinks back in apprehension.

At first glance, this cinematic sibling of the Masked Manhunter seems unimpressive. His robes, though black, are the loose Ku Klux Klan sort. But a second look is really startling. The hood fits rather snugly, the eye-mask beaks down over the nose, looks like a hastily got-up version of our Batman's mask. And a closer study of the robe seems to reveal the dim outlines of a bat design on the chest!

The text has nothing more to say about this dated doppelganger. Persumably, the Cowled Crusader's flickering fellow was as villainous as the crook gasping away under Ben Wilson's strong, sturdy hands. Whether The Branded Four was a serial or a feature film the author does not say.

If these similarities are coincidental, it's amazing. If they're not, it'd seem further research is called for. --Richard Kyle

(Can anyone supply me with The Bad Guys?--Biljo)

TAKE A LOOK AT YOUR ISSUE OF PHANTOM #3, May-1963...and you'll notice the triangle on the Phantom's belt buckle is upside down with the pointed side up. The "skull" emblem appears on it. The point of the triangle generally is downward. -- Mark Dillman

BOOF IN DETECTIVE #306...Robert Lewis sent in this one: On page 9, panel 2 of the Batman story in Detective Comics #306 it states--"Shortly after their Utility-belts are removed..."(as the Dynamic Duo is captured)--but in the next panel (panel 4) Batman is wearing the belt.

SUPER-MAN IN SPIDER-MAN...In the third issue of Spider-Man, page 3, panel 6, Doctor Octopus says: "And now, Super-man, I grow bored with this game! My time is too valuable!" No doubt the Superman was not intended, but as pointed out by David Colton, the letterer, John Duffy, has not been mentioned in any Marvel credits since that July 1963 issue.

NUMBERS IS UP...Rick Durell noticed this oddity in his copy of Daredevil #7 (or is it #6), anyway---Daredevil #7 (he reports) has #6 printed on the cover, and #7 printed on the inside.

LOST GAUNTLET...Look at your copy of Detective #258, page 9, last panel. Batman's hand (which is gripping the bar of a prison) is bare. The gauntlet probably was not lost; perhaps the colorist ran out of time. What do you think Wade Fulmer?--and thanks for the oddity.

KANE'S "SEAN CONNERY"...Mystery In Space #100 and 102 had stories (with 8-pagers) about "Interplanetary Investigations" an U.N.C.L.E.-like organization. The U.N.C.L.E. agent's face is as close a copy of Sean Connery's face as Gil Kane can make it. His name is Damo, which can be easily construed as a corruption of Shamus, the Irish for James. This was noticed by Ellen Vartanoff.

ON THE "BATMAN" GAME...Mark Dillman tells us that the new Batman game is made by Hasbro Toy Co. Retail price=98¢. The game board shows the evening sky above Gotham City's skyline. Batman and Robin are leaping from a bridge onto another bridge where the Joker is driving a red car. A police car is hot on the heels of the Clown Prince of Crime. The game is for two to four players. The path you follow with your "pegs" has directions on some squares. Others have pictures of BM & Robin. Upon landing on the BM & Robin squares you pick up a BM or Joker card with directions to follow. According to Mark, the BM picture is from Batman Comics #168, page 8, panel 3. The Joker picture is from Detective #332, page 5, panel 5.

WE COMPLETELY OVERLOOKED... With apologies to Bob Kane we now present the belated appearance of one of his early creations: Professor Doolittle. This particular scene was taken from a 1939 Adventure Comic (#35--Feb.) --And how he reminds us of The Penguin!

CAPP ON BATMAN...Playboy for December 1965 features an interview with the creator of Li'l Abner, Al Capp. In a discussion of Jules Feiffer's THE GREAT COMIC-BOOK HEROES, Mr. Capp comments on Dr. Fredric Wertham and his book: SEDUCTION OF THE INNOCENT---which attacks the Duo.

Can anyone help me obtain the Batman game mentioned above?--Biljo

BATMAN IN SOUTH AFRICA...Imagine my surprise when recently I received several copies of a newspaper printed in South Africa with a photo-reprint of the cover of Detective Comics #27 (1st Batman issue). Writer Adam Brand presented an article on comic-collecting and comic fandom, with the latter penned by none other John Wright, our South African Batmanian Lieutenant. Thanks, John, for the papers.

ONE YOUNG WOMAN WAS LAUGHING as she emerged form the theatre. "Those ears of his. They're hysterical. And those leotards he wears. There's a hole in the knee." ---and the full-length Batman "serial" hits Philadelphis on its tour of the country.

SUPERMAN HAD A BAD DAY LAST WEEK. The publisher of Jules Feiffer's "Great Comic Book Heroes" hired Art West, an actor, to dress up like Superman and walk Fifth Ave. for three hours, with stops at the book stores. The march started at Scribner's in the upper 40's, where one of the TV stations took pictures of Superman in the window.

Then he started uptown, stopping at Doubleday's, all going well until he was halted by a cop. Cape flying, eyes flashing, Superman meekly got into a taxi and...went home. (The Police Dept. asked about this, offered a somewhat mystified "no comment.") To complete Superman's day, the TV people reported their film unusable.

Poor Superman! Chased off the street, goofed off the air. But the book is doing all right.

BUCKY, FOR SHAME! USING BRASS-KNUCKS...Yes, if you'll take a look at the cover of Captain America #49 (Aug. 1945) there's Bucky (side-kick of the Cap) swatting a good-ole thug with (unfair!) brass-knuckles. A brand-new Batmanian sent this in. He's Zbigniew Dmowski.

ACCLAIMED AS THE GREATEST NEW ADVENTURE HERO OF THE YEAR...so says Sports Illustrated for November 22, 1965. They were speaking of Steve "Sudden-Death" Sabol, footballer deluxe and Owner of an enormus comic book collection, quote: "featuring such alltime favorites as Mr. America (?) and Batman." --- Ken Dean

SWANK Magazine, Jan. 1966, contained a comic strip feature, "Girl from M.O.T.H.E.R., in which she dresses up as the Phantom and meets Batman. And if you'll look on page 4, there is another mention of "Bat Man" comics in a discussion of the high prices of old comics.--Rick Weingroff

I DON'T BELIEVE WE MENTIONED...that The Texas Ranger for April 1965 carried an article entitled, "Shazam" by Greg Barrios. There are illustrations of Green Lantern and Superman. Batman and Robin, plus their arch enemies: The Joker, Penguin, and Catwoman are mentioned.

ROCKY COLAVITO--ALIAS THE 'BAT MAN'...was the caption under the photo of the Cleveland baseballer . May 30,'65-NY Journ.Am. --Rick Weingroff

BATMAN SWITCHES SIDES--FOR WIGS...reports the St. Petersburg Times, Oct. , 1965. When Mrs. Elise Anders told police of the theft of more than 0 worth of human hair wigs, she described the thief as a man dressed a long black coat and a wide-brimmed black hat. "--and he looked just e Batman." So police now are looking for Batman. They won't say ether or not his youthful sidekick, Robin, was involved in the hairy eft.

BATMAN--AND BASEBALL AGAIN. In another baseball article, this time when an Marichal went after John Roseboro in that celebrated clash of some ths ago. The article, by Jerry Izenberg (AT LARGE), is titled, "Bat- r," and the photo caption is, "The brawl...Batman in action." Sandy fax is shown trying to seperate Juan and John.

AN SCOTT, THE ORIGINAL GREEN LANTERN, is usually shown as being left ded. Yet on the cover of All American Comics #16 (in which he made s debut), he is shown wearing his power ring on his right hand. Even nger, is the fact that during the first half of the story he wears s ring on his right hand, but during the last half, or at least the t page, he wears it on his left hand. --- Linda Simpson

E GREAT COMIC-BOOK HEROES by Jules Feiffer is now on sale. It in- des full-story reprints of some of the "classic" stories of all time. ides a "Joker" adventure, there are Hawkman, Superman, Spectre, etc. ory reprints. For a preview of it see Playboy--Oct. 1965.

EEN THRILLS ILLUSTRATED, although no longer published, was that won- ful magazine of old movies and serials. Even though most of you are re that certain issues featured stories on Batman and Robin, I am tioning it here for the benefit of those that missed them. In the 1963 issue, you'll find Part II of Batman and Robin. (Robin was on cover.) Scenes are from the second Batman serial starring Robert ery. An interesting side-light to this issue is the "mail" page. of our Batmanians are featured in costume. They are: Larry (Robin) tourne (who was a candidate for Chief-BM) and Russ (Batman) Keeler. April 1963 issue carried the first part of the two-part article. couple of 1943 daily strips were reproduced in this issue. There is full page shot of Robert (Batman) Lowery and Johnny (Robin) Duncan in e 1st issue of STI.

DADDY ROTH #1--Oct.Nov.1964 featured a 4-pager: Bat-t-Man with bon the Wonder. A satire--with art by Millar.

TEXAS RANGER for Dec. 1965 features "The Last Entries in Superman's ary", a "whimsy" by Dave Hickey. Batman is mentioned in it, and also an Interview with Tom Wolfe. This is the "colossal pop-culture issue. thanks to Jon Swartz for sending it.

ease continue to send in your COMIC ODDITIES and Bat-Facts. Thanks.

o. 9, Feb., 1966, The Fanzine Especially for Batman Fans, is an amateur, non-profit publication distributed to Batmanians everywhere. BM is pub. irregularly and is available to other faneds in trade. Others: 30¢ per copy, 10¢ extra for flat copy in large envelope. BATMAN is copyrighted by National Periodical Publications, Inc. and is used by permission. Notify us of any change-of-address.

The BATRADER

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT: Due to many complaints, The BaTrader will no longer accept ads for other than Batman-oriented items. Which means, this is the last issue we will advertise other fanzines; comics or products not pertaining to Batman. RATES: 50¢ for ¼ page ad (or less.) ¼ page = 12 typed lines. No ads for less than 50¢ accepted.

WANTED: Any articles from newspapers, magazines, etc. that mention, or are about DC superheroes. Will pay 25¢ each.
FOR TRADE: I have for trade the following three articles: (1) COMIC VALENTINE--article about Jules Feiffer, author of the new book: THE GREAT COMIC BOOK HEROES from NEWSWEEK. (2) Book review of THE GREAT COMIC BOOK HEROES from N.Y. TIMES BOOK REVIEW (2 illustrations from book. (3) Book review of THE GREAT COMIC BOOK HEROES from N.Y. TIMES (different than preceeding one)--accompanied by 4 "illustrations" from Table of Contents page of the book). I will trade one-for-one for any that I don't have. Contact:
SCOTT TAYLOR 8 RAYMOLD PLACE WESTPORT, CONN. 06880

WANTED: Batman Annuals #1,2,5,6,7;
Batmanie #1,2,3;
Detective Comics #327,328,329
All should be with covers in fair condition, or, without covers, in very good condition.
Send lists and prices to:
PETER KAPTJROWSKI, 25 WALLACE AVE., CHEEKTOWAGA, N. Y. 14225

ATTENTION BATRADER READERS...Are you tired of seeing this ad section being filled with ads of advertisers just publishing their wants and very few having something to sell? Well, this is different. In this ad you can find that old Batman issue you've been looking for or the one you need to fill the gap in your collection. All comics are in good to very good condition and some are in near mint condition. So onward:

$4.00--BATMAN 14
$2.50--BATMAN 28,29
$1.50--DETECTIVE 225(1st Jonn Jonzz)
$ .75--BATMAN 79,82,87,91,92,96,97,98,99,100,102,103,104
or 3/$2--DETECTIVE 223,226,227,228,229,230,231,232,233,234,235,236,237
$ .50--BATMAN 108,109,110,112,113,115,116,117,118,119 120,121,122,123,124,127,128,129,130
or 5/$2--DETECTIVE 241,242,243,244,245,246,247,248,249,250,252,253,254 255,257,258,259,260,261,262,263,264,265,266,267,272,273,274,275
$ .35--BATMAN 131,132,133,134,135,136,137,138,139,140,141,142,143-4-5
or 3/$1--DETECTIVE 276,278,279,280,281,282,283,284,285,286,287,288,290 291,292,293,294,295,296,297,298,299
$ .25--BATMAN 146,147,148,149,150,151,152,153,154,155,156,157,158,159 160,161,162,163

$3.00--BATMAN 21,22--DETECTIVE 82
$2.00--BATMAN 37,38
$1.00--BATMAN 61,63,67
238,239,240

---Continued next page

5/$1--DETECTIVE 301,302,303,304,305,306,307,308,309,310,311,312,313, 314,315,316,317,318,319,320,321,322,323,324,325,326.
TRADE: I'll trade a copy of BATMAN 5 or 6 (both in good condition) for a good or better copy of BATMAN 8. DEALERS (or a collector for that matter): I'm desperately seeking (who isn't?) a copy of BATMAN #1. I'm willing to trade DETECTIVE 45,49,59,67,70,71,72,76,78,80,82,85,90,91, 92,93,94,95 and BATMAN 2(w/a half page missing from the first story). This is at least $70 worth of comics. The BATMAN 1 must be in good or better condition, with all pages and covers complete. If you have both BATMAN 1 and 8 I'll throw in free the copy of BATMAN 5 or 6 that normally would have been left over. WRITE:
MIKE FRIEDRICH, 17474 EHLE ST., CASTRO VALLEY, CALIF. 94546

ATTENTION BATMAN FANS!

I print a slam-bang fanzine called Inside-Batman. It has in every issue info on Batman and Robin. A different subject every time! Presently published irregularly, Inside-Batman costs only 10¢. (Sometimes 15¢--depending on the length of the article) So get your first slam-banging issue which includes: Batman articles like -- "Ask Batman" and many more. All copies sent 3rd Class. To get yours, send to:
JOHN HEHER, 4179 WOODEDGE DR., BELLBROOK, OHIO

NOTICE---The above fanzine, and KOMIKOLLECTOR pub. by Dan Cassidy (see last issue ad)(name later changed to Future), have not been seen by the Editor. As this is the last issue of BATMANIA that will carry ads of fanzines, I suggest you send me your fanzines (I trade) for review and possible mention elsewhere in BM. I encourage sincere, dedicated, new faneds (fan editors) and will give your fanzine mention should I feel it merits the attention of Batmanians.

COMIC FANS
GET THE LATEST FANZINE..."COMICLUB!"
FOR ONLY ONE DOLLAR YOU GET...A YEAR SUBSCRIPTION
(10) ISSUES TO OUR COMICLUB BULLETIN PLUS OFFICIAL
COMICLUB PENCILS AND OUR CLASSY
MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATE! ORDER NOW! FIRST ISSUE COMES OUT
IN MID-JANUARY! ORDER!

TERRY LEVIN, 7938 JEFFERY BLVD., CHICAGO, ILL. 60617

Comicdom's newest fanzine, THE SYMBOL, is ready. It contains super-hero articles, facts, and art. Send 35¢ to:
LYNN WOOLLEY, 1217 SOUTH 17th, TEMPLE, TEXAS

WANTED: Batman Annuals 1,2,3. Batman Comics before #150 and Detective Comics before #170. Will pay reasonable prices.
JOHN COSTA, 39 FLORENCE AVE., MASSAPEQUA, N.Y.11758

When ordering BATMANIA please send dimes taped to your stationary.

JACK SERAFIN - 300 SOUTH KENNETH ROAD - BURBANK, CALIFORNIA - 91501
Enclose 35¢ postage with all orders. Checks and Money orders only!
Comics in at least good condition.
BID: ALL STAR #7 vg-nm-1941 (Hawkman, Green Lantern, Hourman, Atom, Sandman, Spectre, Dr. Fate & J.Thunder. In cameo appearances: Superman, BM & Flash.
ALL STAR #8 nm-mint '41 (First Dr. Midnite & Starman. Has Spectre, Hawkman, Dr. Fate, Sandman, Atom & J.Thunder. Also-1st Wonder Woman story ever published.
ALL STAR #9 vg -1942 (Atom, Hawkman, Spectre, Dr. Fate, Sandman, Dr. Midnite, Starman & Johnny Thunder.
ALL STAR #10 good-1942 (Hawkman, Spectre, Starman, Dr. Midnite, Atom, Dr. Fate, Sandman & J. Thunder.
WORLD'S FINEST #24 - $3.00 The following @ $1.00:
$1@---
ADVENTURE #275 (origin of the Batman-Superman team)
LOIS LANE #6(Robin) ACTION #270(BM & Robin)
SUPERMAN #132(BM & Robin), 138(Batman)
80¢@---
BATMAN #127,131,134,139,142,143,144 DETECTIVE #258,268, 268,272,276,281,287,294,295 SUPERMAN #149(BM & Robin)
40¢@---
BATMAN #153-160,162,164-168 DETECTIVE #314,316,318,322,325 330-334 WORLD'S FINEST #131,135-144,146 AQUAMAN #18,ACTION #309
20¢@---
BATMAN #169-173 DETECTIVE #335,336,338-341

JACK SERAFIN, 300 SOUTH KENNETH ROAD, BURBANK, CALIF. 91501

HELP!!! I need JAMES BOND daily strips. I need newspaper and magazine articles about Ian Fleming/James Bond/Sean Connery.
PULPS NEEDED: Black Book Detective (with The Black Bat)
Wanted: Newspaper and magazine articles about Batman--especially on the new television show. There'll be a "flood" of stuff--so watch for it. I'll buy, trade anything you can supply on the above.
BILJO WHITE, P.O.BOX 115, COLUMBIA, MISSOURI 65201

HERO-HOBBY issue #3 - NOW READY!

Features, MOVIES, COMICS, RADIO SHOWS of your favorites! Original artwork comic-strips! Ads on hard-to-get BATMAN comics, including Detective, World's Finest, etc. Absolutely no other publication like this! For serious fans and collectors only! 65¢ for sample limited copy.
JOHN COOPER, R#3-Box 305, CLARKSBURG, WEST VIRGINIA 26301

ATTENTION---My new 10-page list of Comics, BLB's & related material is now ready...The WHITE HOUSE of COMICS List for 1966
All brand-new up-to-date listing of the items I have for trade and for sale. There are many items I still need for my own personal collection...so let's make a deal.
----------Send large (long) envelope with 10¢ postage to: BILJO WHITE, P. O. BOX 115, COLUMBIA, MO. 65201

NEW LOW PRICES !!!

My prices are possibly the lowest you have ever seen! FOR SALE: Batman #126 (Fair), 132, 134, 135, 146-149, 156, 157, 159-161, 163; Detective #284 (Fair), 298, 300, 302, 305, 317, 319-325; World's Finest #125, 132, 134-140---all just 20¢ each !!! Enclose 35¢ with all orders under $3.00. I also have many other comics on sale at low, low prices: Superman, Atom, Showcase, Brave and Bold, Aquaman, Flash, and Green Lantern for only 20¢ each; Action, Adventure, Jimmy Olsen, Lois Lane, and Superboy for only 15¢ each; plus many, many more. Send for my free list.

Contact: BILL FJLMILER, 4007 JUNE DRIVE, DALLAS, TEXAS 75211

SINCE WE'VE BEEN WAITING TWENTY-FIVE YEARS FOR THE BBB (BIG-BATMAN-BOOM) please bear with us if we seem to be going overboard with the TV news, but...

JILL ST. JOHN as "Molly"

Jill St. John uses her feminine wiles to lure the intrepid "Batman" into the path of the Riddler in the opening segment. The pretty redhead plays Molly of the Golehill Set. Jill, born in Los Angeles, began her professional career when she was six years old, appearing on the "Red Rider" radio program. Eventually, she was to do more than 1,000 radio shows.....And I wonder, will we have a big Batman LP record album similar to those of the Bond movies?.....Nelson Riddle, most recently featured as a conductor on TV in the special, "Sinatra: A Man And His Music," will write and conduct the score for "Batman".....Look at this line-up of guest stars: Burgess Meredith as "The Penguin"...Anne Baxter as "Wicked Zelda the Great -- and this is only the beginning. Batman may become the most "in" series television has had since "Omnibus."

AND, if we may ask here, did anyone see Bookweek for Dec. 12? It cover featured: a picture of Batman and Robin. BM is saying, "You're standing on my cape." (The old Capt. missed this one -- can anyone help us?) "The only real-live general I ever saw up close during the course of World War II was sitting in a tin hut in England reading a comic book. It was, as I recall, "Batman and Robin," so reports William Vaughn for Bell-McClure Syndicate. This was the way he began his feature on "Wars Pass From Comic Book To Television Generation."

THE FACTS ON "BATMAN"

It has been a long time since a television series has caused as much enthusiasm and discussion -- and so much dissemination of mis-information as our new series "Batman" -- reports William Dozier, the Executive Producer of the show.

The interest is only natural, I suppose, since American youngsters have been following the adventures of this legendary comic book hero and his trusted aide, for the past 25 years.

The misinformation is equally natural, I'm afraid, since many people tend to think only in terms of what they have seen before. We have even heard, to our horror, that we were preparing "an animated cartoon for a juvenile audience." That's the sort of rumor that gives a producer nightmares. The facts are these. "Batman" is by no means a "cartoon" now, we are in production right now with the "livest" actors in town. While the show is, certainly, designed to satisfy the 8 to 14-year-old audience by providing a living picture of the comics they have read,

Con't.p 28

"ROLL CALL" THIS ISSUE. Due to some dissatisfaction with devoting a full page to listing fan names & addresses, the Roll Call has been omitted for this issue. Should it return to a half-page, full-page, or...?

The BATMANIANS SPEAK

AND THIS TIME---BATMANIA!

Annually, Rutland's Hallowe'en Parade has brought Batman before the eyes of an eager public of marchers and spectators.

So it was this past All Hallow's time in the Vermont community where the name of Batman has become synonous with the night of mystery and excitement.

Stepping forth once again from the pages of Detective Comics was the fabled figure of Gotham to take his place of accord as parade marshal.

With him were other familiar figures of the world-wide known crime-crushing combine. Batwoman posed in regal fashion, Robin the Boy Wonder ready for action, Batmite ever-seeking a chance for mischief, and Batgirl swinging aboard in happy glee.

Arriving to menace them all and being promptly subdued in course was their dreaded archest of enemies, the clown-face king of evil--The Joker. And in the spirit of Hallowe'en, the parade watchers had friendly shouts of recognition reserved even for him.

Six years now the Hallowe'en parade has wended its course through the Rutland City business section. The Bat Family's gauntled salute has been raised in the midst of martial music and imaginative costuming as bands, floats and marchers passed in review.

However, 1965 will be remembered in Rutland County as---"AND THIS TIME BATMANIA."

For Batmania took its rightful place in the parade. Though Biljo White, club director, was not present in person he was represented in more ways than spirit.

The newly established Vermont Batmania Coven, including this writer as Chief Batmaniac, Thomas K. Slayton, as Lieutenant Vermont Batmanians, and Karen Sanborn, Ed Stevens, Deana N. Fagan and Robert C. Clark Jr., all Batmanians---saw to that.

For the 1965 Batman float carried the slogan, "Batmania Sweeps the Nation."

Coven members, who work within the auspices of Night Legion, Rutland County Chapter, Inc., prepared a float backdrop that was an exact reproduction of a Biljo White drawing that graced the pages of BM#3.

Seven-feet by seven-feet in size, the poster redesigned Director White's picture, "The Big Parade," showing the Bat Family riding on a float, while Batmite carried a banner proudly overhead. Biljo's signature in large lettering was "forged" on the poster face.

Naturally, the Batmania chiroptera trademark also appeared on the backdrop. Batmanians even went a step further to insure in their own way the ideals of comicdom as a whole.

Whe Roy Thomas and Dave Kaler, Alter Ego editor, and ComiCon chairman respectively, sent word they were coming to Rutland to be in

the parade, the Batmanians set out to prepare suitable welcome.

Hours went into the making of another float backdrop, this one with Plastic Man springing forth as part man and part jack-in-the-box, while Dr. Strange gestured forth in magical motion.

Thomas, himself, fashioned a rear banner for the float and thus the saffron and black insignia of the Alter Ego mask appeared for all to see. Roy, as Plastic Man, represented the Golden Age of Comics, while Dave magnificently garbed as the good doctor, brought to life the Mighty Marvel Age.

Compliments from all sides lauded this year's parade, sponsored by the Rutland Recreation Department, as the finest "ever yet" and brought forth the question, "What will you be doing next year?"

If events follow the yearly course set over the past six years, the 1966 Hallowe'en Parade in Rutland, Vermont, will be once again, "the biggest and the best,"---and the Batmanians will have a major part in making it so. ---Tom Fagan, Chief-BM

OPEN LETTER FROM BOB KANE---Due to the ever-present work load of turning out the adventures of Batman, creator Bob Kane has not been able to complete the revision of his "Open Letter to All Batmanians." The pages of Batmania are still open to Bob and we hope to present his "letter" by the next issue.

The following is from our Lieutenant in England.(Dave McCulloch):

Regarding my appointment as Lieutenant, how are nominees chosen?

(Dave, many months ago when I asked that Batmanians make nominations for the office of Chief and State Lieutenant, I had very good response from some states while poor response from others. Most all nominees were submitted by Batmanians. From those states that had no nominations I listed "suggested" nominees--with the notation that <u>any</u> other nominees could be named in the election.)

I am confused by this...I quote: "State Lieutenants, when elected, will submit a list of projects, or goals (as suggested by members of their states) to the Chief Batmanian for the club to work toward. They will also help devise a permanent club policy as to new membership, and advancement within the organization."

(Dave, presently, one of our major projects is to support the new Batman TV show. This is but one of many projects. For instance, we follow all news releases about Batman--and follow them up with letters of comments, sometimes (as in the case of Tom Fagan's letter to The DIAMONDBACK--see elsewhere) we openly criticize these attacks on Batman. I would like to point out here that when I say "we" I mean <u>All</u> Batmanians. Altho Tom and I are spearheading the drive for Batman we must have the cooperation and support of not only duly elected Lieutenants, but the rank-and-file as well. We openly solicit suggestions from all members---thus our organization will continue to develop and grow. To say now that our group is formed and complete would be in error. <u>We</u> have a long way to go, and along the way we will alter and change, but we are hoping that eventually all will be proud to say <u>we are Batmanians</u>.)

(Re new membership: Originally, my concept of the Batmanians was to organize a group of dedicated Batman boosters only. I was not (and am not now) interested in building a large readership. Instead, I hoped to reach new interested fans other than those I already knew of. Primarily, I feel I've succeeded. Today, Batmania reaches several hundred members each and every issue. Many have been regular readers since the first issue dated July 1964. Some fans have come and gone. Some have returned for a second look. And surely there are hundreds

of Batman fans who've never heard of Batmania and our mania for Batman. It is these unknowns who I hope we batmanians can ferret out, not just another fanzine reader (altho we take pride in presenting an enjoyable fanzine--which we hope every type fan would like).

(Re advancement within the organization: Like most clubs we started out with a plan to offer advantages to the member who showed added interest and initiative. We hoped to promote interest in collecting the adventures of Batman in the various comics he appears in. Those that accumulated a certain number were intitled to be "Grand BM's". Another way to attain this rating was to enlist five or more "Rookies" into the organization. Presently, all batmanians are considered on the same level, regardless of who they have brought into the club, or total comics they possess. The only rank now listed is that of Chief and Lieutenant, plus myself as Director.)

Profile of a Batmanian---

ARLINE MARY GOMEZ

Arline Mary, who assisted us with some typing on the last issue, is 20 years old and works for the United Fund. Her favorite sports are baseball, football, fishing and swimming. She lives in San Antonio, Texas and can occasionally be found on the rifle range getting in some practice with her .22 rifle. Arline Mary does a little photography, paint by numbers, collects stamps, coins, rocks, sea shells, comics, paperback books, and anything to do with Batman and World War II. Her favorite comic heroes are: Batman, Sgt. Rock, Lt. Jeb Stuart, Capt. Johnny Cloud, Capt. Storm, Enemy Ace, Combat Kelly, Blackhawk, Challengers, Atom and others. Her favorite artists are Bob Kane and Joe Kubert. Arline hopes to see these changes: Remove Infantino and let Bob Kane draw Batman as in the past. Have Kubert do the JLA. Her favorite writers are Stan Lee, Gardner Fox and John Broome.

DR. HUGO STRANGE, due to a little research, was found to appear in Detective Comics for December 1940. It was inadvertently reported in BATMANIA #7 (Batman Before Robin--Part II) that when Strange disappeared ("..to murky waters below") he never returned.

A BATMANIA SPECIAL OFFER!

You need no longer be late in ordering Batmania due to forgetting to send that 30¢ after receiving the preceeding issue. Batmania can now be ordered in advance---and as a New Year offer you may obtain the next three (or any three) issues, all sent in large manila envelopes (unfolded) for only $1.00. Ordinarily this is a $1.20 value (40¢ for Batmania sent flat).

ALSO:

Take a look at the space just below the Batmania return address on the outside cover---there you will now find the number of the exact last copy you are supposed to receive. This added service will notify you when to re-order.

Not too long ago, I received in the mail a photograph of the cover of Detective Comics #38 and as I looked at it, I noticed something, and since then I have pulled out my copies of other World War II issues of Detective Comics and it is there, too. On that cover, and in the other comics, Batman, no matter what he is pictured as doing, is drawn as--is--something he hasn't been for quite some time now--a real man's man, not an almost effeminate looking man. He has a big square jaw and a tough looking face, quite unlike the modern, "new look" Batman or even the Batman of Jack Schiff during later days. In the last year or two of Schiff's era there were a few good stories and a few examples of a good artistic treatment of Batman. Dick Sprang's story, "The Flame Master" in Detective #308 was well drawn; some of the stories Jim Mooney drew presented the real Batman; and even a few of Bob Kane's stories did, then and even now. However, most did not. (Robin was virtually always well drawn then though. He hasn't been during the "new look" except perhaps in a few isolated panels.)

Today, when Infantino draws Batman, most of the time he comes out like a ballet dancer even though he is well drawn. When Bob Kane draws Batman, results vary; sometimes there are good action shots, sometimes it is fairly poor; although the results are usually better when Sid Greene inks. But when one goes into the rendering of pencils by the various inkers it can become a complex choice of styles

Another difference between today's Batman and the Batman of 20 years ago is the way the stories are written and the way they are laid out. Take most any Batman story today, say one by Gar Fox. If it is in Detective it is 15 or 16 pages long and if it's in Batman it's 12 pages long. Excluding the first page, there are 5 panels on most pages and either 4 or 6 on 3 or 4 pages. Usually there is a long caption over each panel (if Fox wrote the story, there are somewhat longer captions). If the action speeds up, like if there is a fight, the long captions are still there. An effort is made to make the story seem fairly realistic, and the story is serious through-out. More than likely, most of the story takes place in the day time. There isn't a lot of shading, and very little use is made of solid black. If the story were printed in just black and white, the pages would look pretty light. When the color work is done, wide use is made of light colors (i.e., light blue, pink, light green, etc.); dark or solid colors aren't used very often. The story is padded and stretched out 4 or 5 pages longer than it should be.

But now, lets take a story from 20 years ago. The story I've chosen is "The Merchants of Misery" in Detective #88, June, 1944. It is a story about a loan shark, an obese man by the name of "Big-hearted John." The splash panel is symbolic; it shows "Big-hearted John sitting on a monstrouse pile of money. In the foreground are obviously poor people throwing more money on the pile; in the background are silhouettes of two thugs pistol whipping a man who can't pay any more. In a scroll about 1½ inches wide on the left side of the page is the introduction to the story: "'BIG-HEARTED JOHN,' HE CALLS HIMSELF, DOLING OUT DOLLARS TO THE POOR--BUT WHEN HE SENDS HIS UNDERWORLD HENCHMENT TO COLLECT HUNDRED-FOLD PAYMENT...AND MAIM AND MERDER THOSE WHO PROTEST, IT APPEARS HE HAS NO HEART AT ALL! STRUGGLING FATHERS, DEFENSELESS WIDOWS, THE AGED AND INFIRM---THESE ARE SLAVES TO HIS GREED, CONDEMNED TO TOIL THEIR LIVES AWAY TO MAKE HIM RICHER...UNTIL THOSE MYSTERIOUS SILENT PARTNERS OF JUSTICE, THE BATMAN AND ROBIN, PIT THEIR NIMBLE WITS AND MATCHLESS MUSCLES AGAINST THE TERROR OF---'THE MERCHANTS OF MISERY!'" In those days, comics only had 52 pages so they couldn't afford to waste any space. The 13 page story begins on page 1 in a 2 inch square panel

in the bottom right corner of the page. In the first 3 panels, BHJ orders a shopkeeper killed because he won't pay any more--a newspaper headlines: Shopkeeper's Murder Fourth This Week! A night watchman at a construction company needs money to pay for an operation for his daughter. A villaninous looking character recommends BHJ. The man borrows $50, and his troubles begin. On page 4, when the Batman finds him being beaten by 3 thugs, he intervenes and action (and puns) start coming fast and furious. IT'S THE BATMAN! (thud),(a man aims his gun) HERE'S WHERE THE BATMAN GETS THE WINGS OF AN ANGEL (Robin jumps up on a girder) THIS CALLS FOR ALTITUDE (then down) LOW BRIDGE! THANKS, ROBIN! (thug comes after Robin with a bludgeon) SPEAKING OF BRIDGE--DON'T YOU KNOW SPADES BEATS CLUBS? OOOFF!, I SEE DIAMONDS! ROBIN, YOU'RE A CARD! (Batman takes care of the last thug) WE'LL MAKE THIS A GRAND SLAM! HAVE A HEART!) But my main concern isn't the story here. During the action scenes there are no panel captions and in the rest of the story they aren't used where they aren't needed or where they wouldn't add to the story. Most of the story takes place at night and liberal use is made of dark, solid colors, large areas of solid black, and silhouettes. Even in daylight scenes, dark, solid colors, blacks, and silhouettes are used to make the panels dark--and almost weird. Batman's costume is a darker blue-grey than nowadays. And Batman is a big, burly, barrel-chested MAN, fearless, tough, smart, almost a superman. The villains reek with evil. In the drawings, exagerations are made occasionally to express pain, anger,fear. At times the artist is almost like a cameraman: going from a close-up to a distant shot and back to a close-up. The story is definitely not padded. If the same story were done today, it would probably be 24 pages long. On most pages, there are 8 panels, a couple have only 7. The story is action-packed and crammed with excitement. Yet the story is NOT crowded or cramped--there is plenty of room, and the larger panels are arranged so it looks like it just couldn't be done any other way. And there isn't any wasted space. The ending of the story isn't just so much wasted space as so often is the case today. On the last page of the story, the man is about to be hanged, by BHJ and company, from one of the girders high up in the framework of a partially constructed building. The thugs intend to take the elevator down, and leave the man hanging. Batman cuts the rope from above while the thugs shoot at him. BHJ hits him; he falls and accidently knocks BHJ off the elevator--BHJ plunges to his death screaming, HELP! SAVE ME, SOMEBODY! I DON'T WANT TO DIE. The caption of the next panel: SO DEATH COMES TO ONE WHO EARNED IT RICHLY... PROVING A MORAL WE ALL KNOW TOO WELL... (Batman says), THE BIGGEST COLLECTION AGENCY THERE IS HAS CAUGHT UP WITH HIM! Batman returns money to BHJ's victims--those who were still alive. A newspaper headline reads, BATMAN ENDS CRIMINAL LOAN SHARK RACKET. The last panel shows Bruce, with arm in sling and pipe in mouth) and Dick staring into the fire in the fireplace: (Dick) BIG-HEARTED JOHN'S PALS WILL GET OUT OF PRISON IN TWENTY YEARS...DO YOU THINK THEY'LL HAVE LEARNED THEIR LESSON BY THEN? (Bruce) IT'S HARD TO SAY...IF THEY HAVEN'T, THEY'LL GO RIGHT BACK. THEY ALWAYS DO!

---James K. Weston

The above, part of James' CHOKE publication for Jerry Bails' CAPA-alpha, is just one of several fan opinions received during the past few months. Batmania welcomes letters, whether pro or con on the "new look"--or what have you. It should be mentioned, however, that while James (and others) prefer the Batman of the forties, I know of many young fans who have obtained several old issues of Batman adventures and they are unimpressed by his by-gone history in comparison to today's standards.

But then that is what makes this old Bat-mania of ours so wonderful.

FRANK GORSHIN BRINGS

The RIDDLER TO LIFE

Frank Gorshin has been many people in his life -- from Marlon Brando to Burt Lancaster to Richard Widmark.

For the premiere showing of "Batman" he is The Riddler -- possibly the most bizarre villain ever to show up on the home screens.

For several years now Gorshin has been noted as an actor in his own right -- and, beginning with this performance in "Batman," he is devoting all his considerable energies to exactly that side of his talent.

"People see me in nightclubs, or variety shows on television, and they forget that first of all I'm an actor. That's why I'm staying away from nightclubs and variety for the next year," he told a visitor to the 'Batman' set. "I was offered the part of The Riddler just about the time I made this decision, and at first I thought it was ridiculous. A comic book on television? Then I remembered that when I was a kid I used to read Batman comics -- and I remember The Riddler very well. He was a 'bad guy', but I really liked him a lot; he had a zest for life and a joy in setting up challenges for himself that appealed to me.

"So I picked up the script -- and I couldn't put it down. I kept going over it, and The Riddler started to come alive for me; not as somebody in a comic book but as a character for an actor to work on. I also knew I'd have a lot of fun with it, because I could do just about anything."

In discussing this outlandish villain, Gorshin becomes so intense in describing him that it becomes difficult to remember that he is not talking about a living person, possibly a close friend.

The essence of The Riddler is that love of life -- he's like a little kid; even a simple act like picking up a pencil is exciting to him. Once I realized that, I started on the specifics.

"He laughed all the time in the comic books, and I knew I'd have to play him that way. But it had to be a genuine laugh, not something created to sound weird -- it's the reason he's laughing that's sinister, not the sound of the laugh. I didn't want to fall into the trap of using the 'Widmark-Kiss-of-Death' laugh, so I started listening to my own natural laughter -- which starts low and builds up almost to a giggle -- and I discovered that was exactly the way he would laugh.

"Once I had that, I knew he had to move constantly; he's full of nervous energy and he's like two people at the same time -- moving and watching himself; play-acting for the world and for his own amusement."

Gorshin, who is still complimented constantly by fans and co-workers on his brilliant performance as a stoolie in "Naked City" a few seasons back, obviously takes every role as seriously as he did that dramatic plum.

"I really hate to see my last scene coming up," he said. "I want to come back and do the Riddler again; there's so much to this guy that I feel I've just started to tap the possibilities."

THE SECOND ANNUAL BATMANIA BALLOT for the Best Story and Best Cover of the Year (see last issue) voting is coming along well. You still have time to complete your ballot if you haven't already done so. RESULTS in issue #10.

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it is also very much attuned to the millions of adults who remember reading them, and can appreciate the humor and nostalgia of these incredible feats of daring.

More TV tidbits...Coming along in the series will be George Sanders as Mr. Freeze, and a top dramatic actor as the Joker. (This could be the guessing game of the year -- Who will portray The Joker?) Just for the sake of guessing, how about Cesar Romero? Whoever it might be, remeber the producers generally select classically-styled actors to play the "guest villain or villainess," as they will be described in the credits.

LOTSA LUCK, BATMAN-BABY

Despite touches of envy here and there, some of the leading lights of comic-book-land responded to the news that Batman is heading for TV with a flock of congratulatory wires. Here is a sampling:

THE FLASH: Heard the news, pussycat. Knock 'em dead. If you get to see Roone Arledge over at "Wide World of Sports" tell him I'm down to 9,1 for the mile.

SUPERMAN: Bat-o...welcome into the business. Wish you wouldn't insist on working with a mask under those hot lights. You'd find it a lot more comfortable and just as effective if you tried the eyeglasses and baggy, double-breasted suit bit.

ALLEY OOP: Good luck. Personally, I like "The Flintstones."

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